SPARK GAP

Vol. 40, Issue 5, May 2023 ***MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities***

On Our MARC:

Looking forward to the club meeting this Saturday, May 20 at 8am at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin. It was nice seeing a bunch of you at the MARC Social dinner this past Wednesday. This was a Dine to Donate, so our club will be getting a percentage of the proceeds. Thanks to Katie, N9KTP for setting this up for us. We plan to continue holding MARC Social Dinners the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm, so mark your calendars. We will try to have more Dine to Donate locations.

Hope to see you Saturday.
73,
Tim
WC9G

CLUB DUES FOR 2023

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2023.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

May Birthdays

KC9PMW – Mark Bradbury
K9BEB – Brandon Burtram
KC9GCH -- Linda Harshbarger
KA9QBF -- Joseph Lovrinic
N9FEB -- Michael Palmer

"YEA.. THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT INSTALLATION JOB, FRED.. EXCEPT FOR ONE THING.. IT'S ON THE WRONG ROOF.."

..... Thanks KQ9Y

THE ART - OF FINDING HIDDEN SIGNALS

Finding hidden or malicious signals takes time, talent and a variety of ham radio gear with antennas to hunt down weak signals. Mike Palmer-N9FEB addressed the topic of Fox Hunting during the April 2023 MARC meeting. Using a small receiver and various Yagi and attenuated antennas, Mike is able to track radio transmissions right down to the crook in a park tree.

Palmer prefers his Yagi Arrow designed antenna or a home brewed measuring tape model when tracking signals through brush and the woods. He has experienced tracking weak signals right down to a hidden transmitter in a park trash can or up in a tree. One key is eliminating reflections or other signals as you hone in on the hidden transmitter.

Art Bleicher-WB9CHR added his loop antenna into the show and tell discussion as his favorite hunting antenna. Starting with a HT with an antenna and then without the antenna will usually get you close to the hidden transmitter.

Palmer and Club President Tim Aldridge-WC9G are planning on having a few fox hunts in Johnson County this summer. ***Watch for an email for time and dates.***

Story & photos Jack w8ish

Dayton Hamvention® 2023 Ready to Go

Tens of thousands of amateur radio operators and radio enthusiasts are preparing to head to Dayton Hamvention 2023 in Xenia, Ohio. The event will host the 2023 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention.

Amateur radio's largest annual gathering opens for the 3-day event on Friday, May 19, at 9 AM, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center. Organizers are reporting strong ticket sales, and commitments from exhibitors and flea market sellers. ARRL is busy putting the finishing touches on their large exhibit area in building 2, which revolves around the yearlong theme, Year of the Volunteers.

ARRL is also sponsoring a series of eight forums this year, including:

•**The ARRL Laboratory - Behind the Scenes!** The inside scoop on what happens in the lab - stories you won't read in *QST*.
Friday 9:15 AM - 10:20 AM in Room 3

•**Protecting Amateur Radio.** ARRL has a history of advocating for the rights of radio amateurs, and this forum will include an update on ARRL's current legislative activity.
Friday 1:15 PM - 2:25 PM in Room 3

•**Amateur Radio and the Law.** Liability insurance issues for your club, how to read local zoning ordinances, and an update on HOA laws.
Friday 2:35 PM - 3:45 PM in Room 3

•**Good Operators and Interference.** An update on the ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program and advice on how to help each other maintain high standards on the air.
Friday 2:35 PM - 3:45 PM in Room 3

•**ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) Forum.** Learn about opportunities to volunteer and, train, and hear stories about best practices.
Saturday 12 PM - 1:20 PM in Room 3

•**ARRL Membership Forum**. Hear from representatives on several key areas of membership and how ARRL is working to advance amateur radio.
Saturday 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM in Room 3

•**ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Forum.** Learn how ARRL is growing our community of participating students and ham radio clubs at colleges and universities.
Saturday 2:40 PM - 3:50 PM in Room 3

•**Youth Outreach.** Ways to attract and engage today's students to ham radio.
Saturday 4 PM - 5 PM in Room 3

..... ARRL News May 2023

National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station Annual Test

The amateur radio station of the National Hurricane Center, WX4NHC (NHC), located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, will conduct their on-the-air Annual Communications Test on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 9 AM - 5 PM EDT (1300z- 2100z).

This is the NHC's 43rd year of public service. NHC Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R/WX4NHC, reports that the purpose of this event is to test amateur radio equipment and antennas at the NHC as well as operators' home equipment, antennas, and computers prior to this year's hurricane season. The 2023 hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through November 30.

This event is good practice for amateur radio operators worldwide to practice amateur radio communications during times of severe weather.

Ripoll said WX4NHC will be on HF, VHF, UHF, 2- and 30-meter APRS, and Winlink, To contact the NHC's amateur radio station send an email to wx4nhc@winlink.org. The subject of the email must contain //WL2K.

The Hurricane Watch Net will try to stay on 14.325 MHz for most of the time, as well as 7.268 MHz depending on propagation. They may also change frequencies due to potential QRM.

You may be able to find WX4NHC on HF by using one of the DX spotting networks, such as the DX Summit website at http://www.dxsummit.fi.

The VoIP Hurricane Net will also be active from 4 PM - 5 PM EDT (2000-2100z), RLP node 9219/EchoLink WX-TALK Conference node 7203. Visit their website for more information.

WX4NHC will also make a few contacts on local VHF and UHF repeaters, as well as the Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet) system to test station equipment.

QSL cards are available via WD4R with a self-addressed stamped envelope. More information about the NHC is available at their website.

…... ARRL News May 2023

What is ARRL Field Day?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio http://www.arrl.org

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it's grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

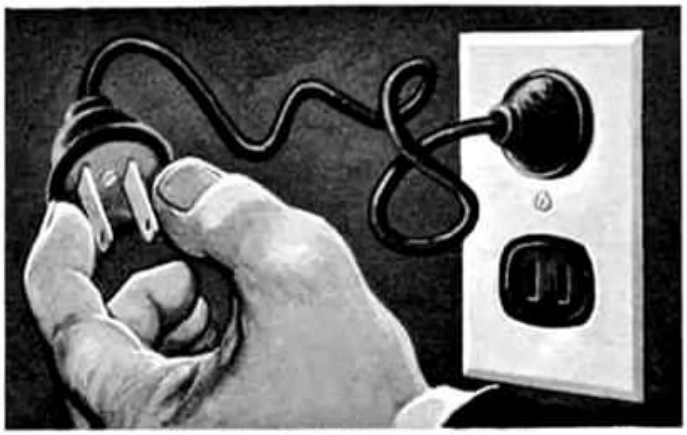
For More Information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

Updated 3/2021

Hamfests

- Dayton Hamvention 2023
  Fri 05-19 8:00am
  Hamvention will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2023 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.
  Friday May 19th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
  Saturday May 20th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
  Sunday May 21st 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
-
- Wabash Valley TurkeyFest - Brazil, IN
  Sat 11-25 8:00am
  Hamfest is located at the Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds which is Exit 23 of I-70 onto SR-59 North [6550 N SR-59]
  GPS: 39.29.03 N 87.07.30 W
  Talk-In: 146.685 PL 151.4
  Admission: $7.00
  Free Tables - Hourly Door Prizes - Commercial Vendors - Breakfast Available
  ENTIRE HAMFEST IS INDOORS - RAIN or SHINE!
  https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php

NEW ITEMS ON THE MARKET



Electric Outlet Tester Cord

This simple device affords a simple, yet foolproof method for testing wall receptacles to find out whether current if flowing out or not. Available from "Hotline Industries, Inc." Dept. Bzzt, Black Hand, South Dakota. $2.95

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Jim Williams – N9EJR

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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